

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (41)

John Edmonds (4 December 2012)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Mexico: Italian lemon price crumbles

When Tamaulipas citrus producers were about to export 35,000 tons of Italian lemons, they were shocked to see how the price of the product, which was of 4,000 pesos, went down to just 1,200 pesos a ton. The president of the State Plant Health Committee, Ricard Sepúlveda Cantú, said that this was mainly caused by Florida and California's productivity increase. "Frosts damaged their trees in previous years; however, they have already recovered and this has led to oversupply in the North American market. As a consequence for this, lemon prices have dropped." The lemon harvest takes place in the central areas of Tamaulipas during the months of November, December and January and 90% of the production is exported. "... Sepúlveda Cantú pointed out that this situation is forcing producers to look for new markets in Europe or Asia in order to increase their profit margin. For his part, the State's Secretary of Rural Development, Jorge Reyes Moreno, said that producers will be supported in their search for new markets. "Tamaulipas leads Italian lemon exports with 35,000 tons annually, so alternatives are being studied to maintain that level and improve profitability margins for producers."

[www.freshplaza.com; 27 November 2012]

India: Fears for orange exports over Bangladesh import tariff

Orange growers in West Bangal have found a lucrative market in Bangladesh, despite a 26% import duty on India fresh produce. Gulab Chand Prasad, an exporter, said "We have very good relations with Bangladeshi traders, but the Bangladeshi government charges 26 percent import duty, which reduces the scope of export market. We are asking for duty free trade and I hope that boosts our business in the northeast region." Somewhere in the region of 100,000 tonnes of oranges are produced annually. That which is not exported to Bangladesh is sold domestically.

[www.freshplaza.com; 27 November 2012]

US (FL): Citrus industry turns away from mechanical harvest

As mechanical harvesting increases in most sectors, there is one area where it is on the decline. It is yet another victim of the ravages of citrus greening disease. In Florida mechanical harvesting has declined 74% as a result of the disease. "The main reason (for the decline) is greening," said Dave Crumbly, vice president of agricultural services at Florida's Natural Growers, the Lake Wales cooperative juice processor. "The energy it (a harvesting machine) takes to remove the fruit is causing a stress on the tree. Greening magnifies the problem." ... Orange groves use the harvesting machines exclusively because juice processors purchase 95 percent of Florida oranges, which accounts for about 85 percent of the state's annual commercial citrus harvest. Grapefruit and tangerine growers don't use the machines because they sell a significant portion of those crops on the fresh market, where bruising and other minor damages from machines would make the fruit unmarketable... [theledger.com; 26 November 2012]

US (LA): Months on and Isaac citrus toll is revealed

The Thanksgiving season often signals the arrival of Louisiana's citrus harvest - satsumas and navel oranges on prominent display in grocery stores, community markets and highway fruit stands. But, this year, Hurricane Isaac devastated the area that accounts for the majority of the state crop... Many Plaquemines citrus farmers say they lost about 75 percent of their satsuma crop and about 90 percent of their navel oranges. Additionally the season is expected to end earlier this year. For example, the satsumas, which are usually available until Christmas, are likely to begone within the next couple of weeks...

[www.freshplaza.com; 23 November 2012]

EU legislation on citrus canker thwarts grapefruit export

The Florida grapefruit season is once again underway. Export to Europe however, has decreased dramatically in the last few years. Reason for the decline is the citrus canker detected in many crops... Importers say other countries, like Japan and Korea, are less strict and form more attractive customers. "Europe is the only one making such a fuss," importers state. "Exporters don't want to take the risk of having crops rejected by customs, so they have started targeting other regions." ... Last year the Florida Department of Citrus in cooperation with Dutch website Okokorecepten.nl undertook a promotional campaign to bring the issue to attention of government officials. In the past 10 years, grapefruit acreage in Florida has decreased with 54%.

[www.freshplaza.com; 23 November 2012]

If you need more information on any of these issues, or if there is anything else that CGA can assist with, please contact us at 031 7652514, or [john@cga.co.za](mailto:johne@cga.co.za)

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